

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' election of Group III, claims 13-16, without traverse. The Examiner also notes that claims 1-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

The Examiner has not further mentioned the election of species requirement. The Examiner is requested to clarify the status of the election of species requirement.

II. The Rejections of Claims 13-15

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements.

The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis in claim 13 for the language "where the geometrical isomer with respect to the methine chain is excited" (claim 13, lines 7-8). In particular, the Examiner states that there is

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/842,086

insufficient antecedent basis for the terms "the geometric isomer" and "the methine chain".

The Examiner also states that claim 13 is rejected "as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements."

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are clear and definite as written and that they particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in view of the following remarks.

Claim 13 is amended to clarify the language and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention, including providing more direct antecedent basis for the methine chain. As to "the geometric isomer", claim 13 is amended to recite that the methine chain of the polymethine chromophore is not isomerized geometrically when the polymethine chromophore is excited. Support for the changes to claim 13 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 60, lines 1-3 and 11-12.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claims are clear and definite and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. The Rejections of Claim 16

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claim 16 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements.

The Examiner states that the language "directly substituted" is not clear in the phrase "from 1 to 10 dissociative groups are directly substituted to the chromophore" (claim 16, lines 7-8).

The Examiner also states that claim 16 is rejected "as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements."

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are clear and definite as written and that they particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in view of the following remarks.

The phrase "1 to 10 dissociative groups directly substituted to the nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring or the condensed benzene ring" means that the dissociative groups are bonded directly to the heterocyclic ring or condensed ring, without a linking group, such as an alkylene group, etc. For example, the

chromophores in the lower part of the Compounds I-14-I-17 are examples of where -SO₃ is directly substituted to the ring nucleus. See also Applicants' specification, the bottom of page 61 on. Applicants respectfully submit that the meaning of the term "directly substituted" would have been understood by one skilled in the art.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claims are clear and definite and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

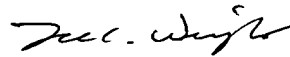
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/842,086

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee C. Wright
Registration No. 41,441

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

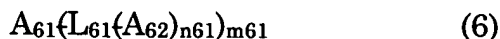
Date: May 6, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

13 (Amended). A silver halide photographic light-sensitive material comprising a compound represented by the following formula (6):



wherein A_{61} represents a first chromophore, A_{62} represents a second chromophore, provided that at least one of A_{61} and A_{62} is a polymethine chromophore comprising a methine chain and the methine chain of the polymethine chromophore is not isomerized geometrically when the polymethine chromophore [not isomerized in the state where the geometrical isomer with respect to the methine chain] is excited, L_{61} represents a linking group or a single bond, and n_{61} and m_{61} each represents an integer of 1 to 5.

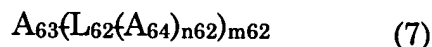
14 (Amended). The silver halide photographic light-sensitive material as claimed in claim 13, wherein [in at least one of A_{61} and A_{62} of the compound represented by formula (6), a] the methine [group] chain is fixed by a crosslinked structure.

15 (Amended). The silver halide photographic light-sensitive material as claimed in claim 13, wherein [in at least one of A_{61} and A_{62} of] the compound

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/842,086

[represented by formula (6),] comprises from 1 to 10 dissociative groups[are directly substituted to the chromophore].

16 (Amended). A silver halide photographic light-sensitive material comprising a compound represented by formula (7):



wherein A_{63} is a first chromophore, A_{64} is a second chromophore, provided that [in at least one of A_{63} and A_{64} ,] is a cyanine chromophore or a merocyanine chromophore comprising a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may further be condensed with a benzene ring and the nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring or the condensed benzene ring has from 1 to 10 dissociative groups [are] directly substituted to the [chromophore] nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring or the condensed benzene ring, L_{62} represents a linking group or a single bond, and n_{62} and m_{62} each represents an integer of 1 to 5.

Claims 17-20 are added as new claims.